

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description of preferred embodiments, taken together with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 illustrates a network for generating snapshots in accordance with one implementation of the invention;

FIG. 2 illustrates components of a storage system in accordance with one implementation of the invention;

FIG. 3A illustrates the contents of a segment descriptor in accordance with one implementation of the invention;

FIG. 3B illustrates a free segment list, a segment descriptor, and a segment map used to manage data in accordance with a dynamic disk space allocation technique;

FIGS. 4A-4C show the contents of a cache at various points during the process of performing a snapshot in accordance with a prior art technique;

FIG. 5 is a flowchart describing a method for performing a snapshot in accordance with one implementation of the invention;

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FIGS. 6A-6C show the contents of a cache at various points during the process of performing a snapshot in accordance with an aspect of the invention;

FIG. 7 is a block diagram showing the relationship of SCSI bus phases;